

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a preparation possessing antiviral activity comprising substances obtained from cuticular or epicuticular layers external to an epidermis of a plant or plant part, the method comprising:

a) exposing the plant or plant part to a solvent under conditions sufficient to solubilize materials in the cuticular and epicuticular layers of the plant, while leaving cells and tissues internal to the epidermis substantially unaffected; and

b) obtaining a solution or suspension of plant cuticular and epicuticular materials, thereby producing the antiviral preparation, ~~wherein the plant or plant part is selected from the group consisting of apple and tomato; and~~

c) formulating the antiviral preparation with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier to form a pharmaceutical composition,

wherein the plant or plant part is selected from the group consisting of apple and tomato.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the solvent comprises one or more ingredients selected from the group consisting of hexane, chloroform, dichloromethane, heptane, ether, petrolether, t-butyl ether, DMSO, supercritical fluids and carbon dioxide.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the step of exposing comprises dipping the plant or plant part into the solvent.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the step of exposing comprises spraying the plant or plant part with the solvent.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the

removal of the solvent is performed by a method selected from the group consisting of aspiration, static evaporation, heating, centrifugal evaporation, rotary evaporation, vortex evaporation, lyophilization, liquid-liquid separation, solid-liquid separation and precipitation.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~An antiviral preparation~~ A pharmaceutical composition prepared by the method of claim 5.

11-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5 further comprising removing the solvent.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19 further comprising redissolving the antiviral preparation in a biologically compatible medium.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5 further comprising clarifying the solution or suspension of plant cuticular and epicuticular materials.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5 ~~further comprising formulating the antiviral preparation into a~~ wherein the pharmaceutical composition is formulated for topical administration.

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5 ~~further comprising formulating the antiviral preparation into a nutraceutical composition~~ wherein the pharmaceutical composition is formulated for oral administration.

24-33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the plant or plant part is apple.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 5 wherein the plant or plant part is tomato.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the plant or plant part is exposed to a solvent from about three minutes to about five minutes.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the plant or plant part is exposed to a room temperature solvent.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the plant or plant part is fruit peel.